



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,937	07/25/2003	Bryan Dematteo	1/ 3	3697
7590		05/02/2006	EXAMINER	
Bryan N. DeMatteo		SHIMIZU, MATSUICHIRO		
260 West 54th Street		ART UNIT		
Apt. 24B		PAPER NUMBER		
New York, NY 10019		2612		

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,937

Applicant(s)

DEMATTEO, BRYAN

Examiner

Matsuichiro Shimizu

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2635

Response to Amendment

The examiner acknowledges currently amended claims 3 and 20.

The examiner withdraws previous objection to claim 3 in view of new ground of rejection.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to currently amended claims 1 and 3 are considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Applicant's arguments filed on 1/9/06 have been fully considered and examiners response is provided as follows:

Regarding applicant's argument (lines 7-13, page 11), Madau teaches personalized setting or operation of the car takes place automatically upon insertion of key into the key switch (col. 7, lines 64-67).

Regarding applicant's argument (line 11, page 12 to line 10, page 13), Lucy teaches the key holder approaches A-zone externally (col. 4, line 1, within the range or function of position) to vehicle as cited in claim 20 wherein positive identification occurs and personalized setting takes place (col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 7). Furthermore, Geber teaches function of position in association with a plural of receiving circuits (Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 4-8, a plural of receiving circuits coupled to antennas covering detection area or zones) as cited in claim 20.

The examiner maintains that Madau, Lucy and Gerber teach remote control associated with setting of vehicle; open doors, start engine, adjusting seat, etc., and therefore they are combinable to teach limitations cited in claim 20.

Therefore, rejection of claims 1-24 follows:

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1–2, 4–5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Madau (6,748,536).

Regarding claim 1, Madau teaches vehicle preferential arrangement in the sub-partition (col. 7, lines 58–67, 78) wherein each individual authorization code is linked to the sub-partition (col. 6, lines 7–11) and is received by the receiver arrangement (col. 5, lines 12–21, receiver arrangement associated with key switch 46 receives data via contact or electromagnetic coupling from key 40) from transponder associated with passive key (col. 5, lines 5–22, passive key is analogous to transponder whereby the passive key receives energy and responds by sending commands associated with setting-up customer configuration stored in the sub-partition in the vehicle) providing response to

Art Unit: 2635

the interrogator via low power electromagnetic signal or wireless signal.

Furthermore Madau teaches processor arrangement (Fig. 3, processor 70) to direct signals to automotive peripherals 22, like adjustment of seats, settings of an entertainment center associated with customizable vehicle component (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 37-44, peripherals 22) and setting takes place automatically upon insertion of the key into the key switch (or position of key with respect to vehicle) (col. 5, lines 17-22; col. 7, lines 64-67) by transmitting data via the electrical contacts or a low-powered electromagnetic signal.

Regarding claim 2, Madau teaches key is inserted into a keyhole (col. 5, lines 5-9) and receiving individual authorization code (col. 6, lines 36-40) for accessing sub-partition containing individual preference setting (col. 7, lines 58-67).

Regarding claims 4-5, Madau teaches each individual authorization code is linked to the sub-partition (col. 6, lines 7-11) and is received from passive transponder key (col. 5, lines 5-22) via low power electromagnetic signal or wireless signal (col. 5, lines 17-2).

Regarding claim 7, Madau teaches the adjustment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the interrogation circuit is configured to interrogate the passive transponder when a key is inserted into a keyhole receptacle of the vehicle (col. 5, lines 5-9).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said

Art Unit: 2635

subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau (6,748,536) in view of Stobbe et al. (6,538,560).

Regarding claim 6, Madau is silent on the adjustment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the interrogation circuit is configured to interrogate the passive transponder when a proximity door opening device is activated.

However, Stobbe teaches, in the art of vehicle authorization system, door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive (col. 7, lines 33-39) authorization signal to activate localized door device (col. 5, lines 47-59 and col. 6, lines 30-39) with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door in the device of Madau because Madau suggests vehicle access authorization and Stobbe teaches door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau (6,748,536) in view of Reimann et al. (6,584,389).

All subject matters except a plurality of keyhole receptacles, the processing arrangement being configured to automatically set the user preference of the customizable vehicle component as a function of which of the keyhole receptacles the key is inserted into in claim 3 are discussed above with regards to claim 1.

However, Madau teaches the adjustment apparatus of claim 2, wherein the vehicle includes keyhole receptacles, the processing arrangement being configured to automatically set the user preference of the customizable vehicle component wherein the key is inserted into before vehicle entry (Fig. 2, col. 7, lines 58–67, automatically personalize the car to the particular user).

Likewise, Reimann teaches, in the art of vehicle setting system, the processing arrangement being configured to automatically set the user preference of the customizable vehicle component as a function of which of the seat the keyholder associated with identification card is sitting (col. 2, lines 18–26). Based on this, it would have been obvious to control multiple systems (i.e. seat positions) in the car based on passenger key locations. This provides the advantage of providing convenience and ease of use to more than one passenger. Furthermore, it would have been obvious to perform this control prior to when the passenger enters the car (by which lock the key is used in) so that the user can enter the with positions already set.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include automatically set the user

preference of the customizable vehicle component as a function of which of the keyhole receptacles the key is inserted into in the device of Madau because one skilled in the art recognizes that such preference setting of the seat for the user upon key insertion provides automatic operation without manual operation by user, thus providing easier seat setting.

Therefore rejection of the subject matters expressed in claim 3 are met by references and associated arguments applied to rejection of claim 1 and to rejection provided in the previous paragraph.

Claims 8, 13-14 and 18, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau (6,748,536) in view of Lucy et al. (6,759,943).

Regarding claim 8, Madau is silent on the passive transponder responds upon proximity to the receiver strength determined within zone A (Fig. 1).

However, Lucy teaches, in the art of vehicle setting system, the passive transponder responds upon proximity to the receiver strength determined within zone A (Fig. 1) for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the passive transponder responds upon proximity to the receiver strength determined within zone A in the device of Madau because Madau suggests detector receiving the reflected component and Lucy teaches the passive transponder responds upon proximity to the receiver strength determined within zone A for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry.

Regarding claim 13, Madau continues to teach the adjustment apparatus of claim 1. But Madau is silent on transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally.

However, Lucy teaches, in the art of vehicle setting system, transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally (Fig. 1, col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 7, transponder 40 within A zone outside vehicle) for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally in the device of Madau because Madau suggests detector receiving the reflected component and Lucy teaches transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry.

Regarding claim 14, Madau continues to teach the adjustment apparatus of claim 13. But Madau is silent on transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally.

However, Lucy teaches, in the art of vehicle setting system, transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally (Fig. 1, col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 7, transponder 40 within A zone outside vehicle) for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally in the device of Madau because Madau suggests detector receiving the reflected

Art Unit: 2635

component and Lucy teaches transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry.

Regarding claim 18, Madau continues, as claimed to claim 13, to teach each individual authorization code is linked to the sub-partition (col. 6, lines 7–11) and is received from passive transponder key (col. 5, lines 5–22) via low power electromagnetic signal or wireless signal.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau in view of Lucy as applied to claims 13 above, and further in view of Shimonomoto et al. (6,965,295).

Regarding claim 15, Madau continues to teach setting takes place automatically upon insertion the key into the key switch (col. 7, lines 64–67). Madau in view of Lucy is silent on detection of externally inserted key of the vehicle.

However, Shimonomoto teaches, in the art of vehicle access system, detection of externally inserted key of the vehicle (col. 4, lines 52–63, insertion of key in key slot of the door) for the purpose of energizing the key and transmitting response signal.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include detection of externally inserted key of the vehicle in the device of Madau in view of Lucy as evidenced by Shimonomoto because such would provide necessary communication between the key and detector without unnecessarily communication at all times, thus saving battery power.

Art Unit: 2635

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau in view of Lucy as applied to claims 18 above, and further in view of Stobbe et al. (6,538,560).

Regarding claim 19, Madau in view of Lucy is silent on the adjustment apparatus of claim 18, wherein the interrogation circuit is configured to interrogate the passive transponder when a proximity door opening device is activated.

However, Stobbe teaches, in the art of vehicle authorization system, door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive (col. 7, lines 33-39) authorization signal to activate localized door device (col. 5, lines 47-59 and col. 6, lines 30-39) with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door in the device of Madau in view of Lucy because Madau in view of Lucy suggests vehicle access authorization and Stobbe teaches door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry.

Claims 9-12, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau (6,748,536) in view of Geber et al. (6,700,475).

Regarding claim 9–12, Madau is silent on the receiving arrangement includes a plurality of receiver circuits arranged in the vehicle as a function of which of the receiver circuits receives the identification signals wirelessly communicated by the transponder.

However, Geber teaches, in the art of vehicle entry system, the receiving arrangement includes a plurality of receiver circuits arranged in the vehicle as a function of which of the receiver circuits receives the identification signals wirelessly communicated by the transponder (col. 5, lines 46–60, the identification authorization unit within localized zone outside of respective vehicle door) for the purpose of providing local command proximity to respective door.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include the receiving arrangement includes a plurality of receiver circuits arranged in the vehicle as a function of which of the receiver circuits receives the identification signals wirelessly communicated by the transponder in the device of Madau in view of Lucy because Madau in view of Lucy suggests vehicle command associated with individual setting via single receiver and Geber teaches the receiving arrangement includes a plurality of receiver circuits arranged in the vehicle as a function of which of the receiver circuits receives the identification signals wirelessly communicated by the transponder for the purpose of providing local command proximity to respective door.

Art Unit: 2635

Claims 16–17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau in view of Lucy as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Garnault et al. (5,844,470).

Regarding claims 16–17, Madau in view of Lucy is silent on activation detection circuit configured to detect a door handle device to open door upon identification matching.

However, Garnault teaches, in the art of vehicle authorization system, activation detection circuit configured to detect a door handle device to open door upon identification matching (col. 4, lines 26–37) for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include activation detection circuit configured to detect a door handle device to open door upon identification matching in the device of Madau in view of Lucy because Madau in view of Lucy suggests vehicle access authorization and Garnault teaches activation detection circuit configured to detect a door handle device to open door upon identification matching for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry.

Claims 20–21 and 23–24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau (6,748,536) in view of Lucy et al. (6,759,943) and Geber et al. (6,700,475).

Regarding claim 20, Madau teaches vehicle preferential arrangement in the sub-partition (col. 7, lines 58–67, 78) wherein each individual authorization code is linked to the sub-partition (col. 6, lines 7–11) and is received by the receiver arrangement (col. 5, lines 12–21, receiver arrangement associated with key switch 46 receives data via contact or electromagnetic coupling from key 40) from transponder

Art Unit: 2635

associated with passive key (col. 5, lines 5–22, passive key is analogous to transponder whereby the passive key receives energy and responds by sending commands associated with setting-up customer configuration stored in the sub-partition in the vehicle) providing response to the interrogator via low power electromagnetic signal or wireless signal. Furthermore Madau teaches processor arrangement (Fig. 3, processor 70) to direct signals to automotive peripherals 22, like adjustment of seats, settings of an entertainment center associated with customizable vehicle component (Fig. 3, col. 4, lines 37–44, peripherals 22) and setting takes place automatically upon insertion of the key into the key switch (col. 5, lines 17–22; col. 7, lines 64–67) by transmitting data via the electrical contacts or a low-powered electromagnetic signal. But Madau is silent on transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally and receiving arrangement including a plurality of receiver circuits.

However, Lucy teaches, in the art of vehicle setting system, passive remote entry device or transponder position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally (Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 28–34 and col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 7, passive remote entry device 40 analogous to transponder at position within A zone outside vehicle) for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include passive remote entry device position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally in the device of Madau because Madau suggests key in the key switch and Lucy teaches passive remote entry device position associated with user intending to enter the vehicle externally for the purpose of providing preference setting before vehicle entry.

Furthermore, Geber teaches, in the art of vehicle entry system, receiving arrangement including a plurality of receiver circuits (Fig. 1, col. 5, lines 2-8, plurality of receiver circuits associated with plurality of antenna units receiving proximity signal from proximity transponder) for the purpose of providing preference setting near vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include receiving arrangement including a plurality of receiver circuits in the device of Madau because Madau suggests key in the key switch and Geber teaches receiving arrangement including a plurality of receiver circuits for the purpose of providing preference setting near vehicle entry.

Regarding claim 21, Madau teaches each individual authorization code is linked to the sub-partition (col. 6, lines 7-11) and is received from passive transponder key (col. 5, lines 5-22) via low power electromagnetic signal or wireless signal (col. 5, lines 17-2).

Regarding claim 23, Madau teaches the adjustment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the interrogation circuit is configured to interrogate the passive transponder when a key is inserted into a keyhole receptacle of the vehicle (col. 5, lines 5-9).

Regarding claim 24, Lucy teaches the passive transponder responds upon proximity to the receiver strength determined within zone A (Fig. 1).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madau in view of Lucy and Geber as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Stobbe et al. (6,538,560).

Regarding claim 22, Madau in view of Lucy and Geber is silent on the adjustment apparatus of claim 5, wherein the interrogation circuit is configured to interrogate the passive transponder when a proximity door opening device is activated.

However, Stobbe teaches, in the art of vehicle authorization system, door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive (col. 7, lines 33-39) authorization signal to activate localized door device (col. 5, lines 47-59 and col. 6, lines 30-39) with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door in the device of Madau in view of Lucy and Geber because Madau in view of Lucy and Geber suggests vehicle access authorization and Stobbe teaches door opening device associated with localized LF-transmitters 4,5,6 causes the transceiver to receive authorization signal to activate localized door device with respect to localized transponder position proximity to localized door for the purpose of providing selective vehicle entry.

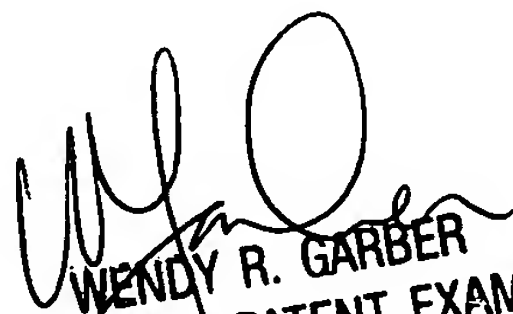
Art Unit: 2635

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matsuichiro Shimizu whose telephone number is 571-272-3066. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber, can be reached on 571-272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3068.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-8576).

Matsuichiro Shimizu
April 17, 2006



WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600